Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 65015 SOUTH HANOVER MOON Allotment
[02/19/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted Rangeland Health Assessments at one study site within allotment #65015, South Hanover Moon. These assessments evaluated Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators at the study site vicinity. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of these field assessments. A summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
65015-SEC 33-C024	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on South Hanover Moon, allotment #65015. Ten (10) of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with previous data collected on one study location within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is a "C" custodial category Section 15 due to small amounts of public land present.

This allotment contains 160 acres of public land. The study is located on a Sand Hills CP-2 ecological site. All of the indicators fell into either a “None to Slight“ or a “Slight to Moderate” degree of departure from the ecological site description.

Recommendations: Recommendations for this allotment include continued and improved prudent livestock distribution and grazing rotation to continue to provide adequate cover for LPC nesting.. Continued rotation to provide off-shinnery grazing should continue and coincide with nesting and booming activity. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

Spring lek surveys should be conducted to determine the status of prairie chickens on public land tracts throughout this allotment.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 65015-SEC 33-C024			
Legal Land Desc	NENE 33 0070S 0310E Meridian 23	Acreage	160
Ecosite	070BY061NM SAND HILLS CP-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007050 WHITE LAKES		
Observers	TRAUTNER, KETCHUM	Observation Date	02/19/2010
County Soil Survey	NM644 CHAVES NORTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	JRC	Soil Taxon Name	JALMAR
Texture Class	NM644 FS	Soil Phase	JALMAR-ROSWELL-PYOTE
Texture Modifier	NM644 FINE SAND		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:	There exists evidence of recent use by livestock especially on the bluestems with 50% utilization estimated. No livestock were observed but it appears they have been rotated out of this pasture just recently.		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	

Comments:	A little pedestalling present but very little, no exposed roots.					
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Current estimate is 15%, ESD indicates up to 30% bare ground.					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas				X	
Comments:	Some dunes present, with wind scored areas near them, there are a very few dunes with vegetation on them.					
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	Very little movement, some litter piling against obstructions.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	ESD stability rating is 3-4 in interspaces, 4-5 under canopy, extremely sand , currently rated at 1 in interspaces and 4 under canopy.					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:	Extremely sandy and some los due to wind erosion, hard to distinquish horizons.					
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff					X
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups					X
Comments:	Excellent diversity amoung grasses, lots of shinnery oak which is supposed to be the dominant shrub.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:	35% is the current estimate.					
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	ESD average: 2250 lbs/acre, currently estimated at 80% of that - excellent production here.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	some broom snakeweed, no mesquite, dominance of shinnery oak					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X

Comments:	Every thing very vigorous, produces a lot of seed.					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:	physical crusts just under sand layer, would expect ot see more in interspaces, some some cyno bacteria, mainly under canopy					
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:	a lot of forbs available					
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:	deer, quail, pronghorn, small mammals, raptor pops- good					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					X
Comments:	Bluestems (sand and little) are present and available for cover.					
B	Special Status Species Populations					X
Comments:						

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	5	5
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	3	8
B	Biotic	0	0	1	5	7

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	1	12

Site Notes: Species noted at this site: sand bluestem, little bluestem, dropseed species, yucca, shinnery oak, hairy grama, black grama, sideoats, broom snakeweed.

Very sandy and excellent production and cover of desirable grasses. There is probably an increase of shinnery oak beyond what is expected for the site. Recommend continuation of current management.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65015 SOUTH HANOVER MOON

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for the implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on the assessments, it is my determination that the public land within South Hanover Moon, allotment #65015 meets the Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman — 03/26/2010

Acting Assistant Field Manager — Date